THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, April 16, 1804.

THE FAMILY PICTURE.

[From Keate's Sketches of Nature.]

IT was quite duſk when I got aſhore after having taken a tour to Margate, and the evening being delightfully ſerene, I was glad, after ſo long a confinement, to ſtretch my legs, and determined to walk home to my lodgings at the weſt end of the town.

It is a doubt whether any capital in Europe equals London in populouſneſs, but it is beyond a doubt, that none vie with it in convenience and cleanlineſs. I could wiſh thoſe, who may be inclined to diſpute my aſſertion, would conſider the wonderful ſecurity in which near a million of people are crowded together, and the equally wonderful manner in which this million are ſupplied with every thing that neceſſity demands, or extravagance can call for. The good order preſerved in our ſtreets by day, the matchleſs utility and beauty of their illumination by night, and what is, perhaps, the moſt eſſential of all, the aſtoniſhing ſupply of water which is poured into every private houſe, however ſmall, even to profuſion! the ſuperflux of which clears all the drains and ſewers, and aſſiſts greatly in preſerving good air, health, and comfort!

Paris may be ſmelt five miles before you arrive at it, Madrid ten, and all the great cities of France and Spain in proportion: As to thoſe of Italy, the atmoſphere which ſurrounds them, is ſo impregnated with garlick, that the noſe cannot eaſily analyze the other compounds which are overpowered by it; yet in ſpite of all the advantages our metropolis may boaſt, thoſe who are juſt arrived from the purer air of the country, will ever here and there, at a ſhort turning, or alley-end, catch many unſavory

whiffs, which they would always wiſh to get to the windward of. On theſe occaſions I have commonly recourſe to my ſnuff-box; but its contents were unfortunately exhauſted, by being liberally offered to ſome of my companions in the hoy, ſo it occurred to me, to call at my old ſnuff-ſhop in Covent-Garden, and get it repleniſhed; conceiving I might, at the ſame time, pick up a little intelligence of what was ſtirring in town.

The ſhop was lighted up, as uſual, and two candles ſtanding on the counter, but the door being bolted, I knocked twice before I gained admiſſion; when the maſter coming from above ſtairs, complimented me on my return home, and on the good looks I had brought back with me.

I thanked him for his civility, and my noſe being become very impatient, I whipped my ſnuff-box from my pocket, and borrowed a haſty pinch from the jar he had taken down.

I thought as he was filling my box, that his features had more than their uſual glow of good nature, and at the ſame time hearing a female voice above ſtairs, accompanied by a guitar, I fear, ſaid I, that I have called you down from ſome convivial meeting; I hate to ſuſpend any one's pleaſure, even for a moment, ſo there is my money, and now run up again to your friends.

You by no means ſuſpend my pleaſure, replied my tobacconiſt; nay, you will increaſe it, by allowing me to tell you what hath occaſioned it.—It is in truth, a ſcene that might *intereſt your feelings*.

Two young men, who have for a great length of time lived with me under this roof, have endured the ſevere mortification of ſeeing a worthy father, whoſe talents and ingenuity might have entitled him to a better fate, by a ſeries of misfortunes, thrown into confinement; and by the rigour of an unrelenting creditor, detained there for the greater part of twenty years.—Though their ſituation in life, denied them the power of reſcuing him from his adverſity, yet they have comforted him conſtantly by their daily viſits, and ſupported both him and his ſecond wife, by the labour of their hands; ever pouring into his wounded boſom, the balm of filial affection. An act of grace hath at laſt ſet the diſtreſſed parent at liberty, and they have this evening been to fetch him home from the forlorn ſcene of captivity, which hath worn down his grey hairs. We have made a little ſupper on the occaſion, and had not long finiſhed it, when you knocked at the door. One of his daughters, whoſe voice you now hear, is come to welcome his return; and as all the family have a muſical turn, ſhe has taken up a guitar to accompany herſelf. Nothing can at this moment exceed the tranſport of the father, after experiencing, for ſo many years, the ſeverity of ill-fortune, to find himſelf, at laſt, houſed in ſecurity under his children's roof.

You

You paint the ſtory, returned I, as one one who ſtrongly ſympathized in the general joy. You might well call it a ſcene to *intereſt the feelings*; on my ſoul, it hath played the deuce with mine, inſomuch, that I would almoſt give one eye, to peep through a key-hole with the other, and obtain a glimpſe of theſe happy people, without intruding on their delicious moments.

Why that, Sir, continued the landlord, I could gratify you in, as there can be no breach either of hoſpitality, or honour, in exhibiting the merits of one's friends, when their actions may not only bear the view, but claim the applauſe of the world. The little room where they are, has a glaſs folding-door, with a curtain drawn only acroſs the lower half of it; if you will give yourſelf the trouble to ſtep up with me, on the ſecond ſtairs, you may unperceived look over it, and indulge your curioſity.

I would not have miſſed the ſight for all I ſhall ever be worth on this ſide of the grave! It ſhewed me ſo lovely a family-picture, as bid defiance to all the efforts of art; even the pencil of a Raphael, a Titian, or a Guido, would have failed in the attempt, for it was drawn and coloured by a greater hand; by thy inimitable hand, O nature! who ſhalt ever, to the laſt page I write, remain the object of my adoration!

I wiſhed a thouſand times, my dear Jenny, that thy benevolent heart could have enjoyed it with me! but I will give you ſome idea, how the canvaſs was diſpoſed, and your ſenſibility will paint the reſt.

Imagine the whole family grouped round the table on which they had ſupped; in full view before me conceive the portrait of the father, whoſe features wore the traces of age and infirmity, poſſibly ſomewhat ſtrengthened by the ſorrows of life, but whoſe countenance was at the ſame time brightened by ſo placid an eye, as indicated a mind ſuperior to them all! On either ſide of him ſat his good ſons, and next to them, his wife, the faithful partner of his afflictions. Oppoſite to her, appeared the vacant chair from whence I had ſo abruptly ſummoned my conductor, who now ſtood by me, while the daughter, whoſe voice I had heard from below, and the friendly miſtreſs of the houſe, who had prepared them this little entertainment, filled up the remainder of this happy circle.

The daughter was ſtill ſinging to her guitar—they were ſoothing, plaintive notes; but my mind was too much occupied to attend to ſounds; it was watching the character which compoſed this ſingular picture, and marking attentively the expreſſions of cordiality and love, which, during the ſong, were ſhot from eye to eye. Often did the good old man caſt looks of tranſport on each of his family, one after the other, then fix his attention on his child, whoſe voice was welcoming his return, while, at intervals, his hands and eyes were uplifted, in ſilent gratitude, to that

providence who had, after trials ſo ſevere, at laſt brought him home in peace.

As ſoon as the ſong was ended, he beckoned his daughter to approach him; when, taking her by the arm, he gently pulled her down to his cheek, and hid his face in her neck. The miſtreſs of the houſe now puſhed nearer to him a glaſs of wine, which had been poured out, and had long ſtood before him, unregarded, on the table; he placidly drank it off; and ſurveying all around him with a look of meaſureleſs contentment, ſtretched out his hands on his two ſons, who were beſide him, which were inſtantly preſſed in their's with the utmoſt fervour; while, in their features, were pictured all thoſe delicate emotions of the heart, which nature has alone entruſted to the human countenance to expreſs, and which the efforts of language are far too feeble to convey.

Believe me, my dear Jenny, there was not a dry eye in all the room; nay, and I might add, on the ſtairs neither—for I more than once obſerved my honeſt tobacconiſt paſs his hand before his face.

There are tears of pleaſure as well as tears of diſtreſs! the latter are excited by our own ſufferings, the former are the involuntary tribute which ſenſibility pays to virtue!

I lament, ſaid I, turning round to my companion, that this PICTURE you have ſhewn me, which glows with ſo many lovely tints that affection hath ſpread over it, ſhould be concealed in your little apartment; it ought to be exhibited to the public; the view of it might ſerve to confirm the good, and ſhame the unfeeling! Nor could I quit the ſcene I had been contemplating, without breathing this benediction over it:

Heaven proſper you children of virtue! nay, and it will proſper you. For you have given the world a noble example of filial piety! and if loſt in its diſſipations, it ſhould overlook the unurged claims you have on it, yet have you treaſured up in your own boſoms, thoſe enviable feelings of conſcious rectitude, which it never can take from you, and which, without hearts like your's, it hath not in its power to beſtow!

I walked home with ſo light and heedleſs a foot, by having my mind totally occupied with all I had juſt been ſpectator of, that I ran againſt half a dozen poſts, and at leaſt treble as many paſſengers.

It having come to my knowledge, that all the parties, excepting one, from whom this ſcene of nature was ſketched, are ſtill exiſting, death having only wiped from the canvaſs the aged father, and as I have found that many of my readers have been intereſted by this family-picture; I eſteem it a tribute due to the characters of the ſons, who ſo much embelliſh the piece, to ſay they are the children of the late Mr. Plenius, well known in the muſical

musical world, and particularly for his invention of that complicated instrument the lyrichord.

I pity, from my soul, the gloomy temperament of the satirist, whose delight is to view only the unfavourable side of life. The imperfections of humanity may never leave his spleen destitute of a subject: yet I am inclined to believe, for the honour of providence and nature, that there ever has been a proportionate degree of benevolence in the world. Those virtues that most adorn, and endear society, are confined to a limited circle. Could we steal in on the privacies of domestic life, I am confident we should see many more actions and characters to admire, and respect, than we are in general inclined to suppose.

I do not recollect, in all my life, to have ever passed a more delicious night; for I slept till late the next morning, without the smallest interruption, and arose in the finest spirits imaginable: Nor will I ever be persuaded, to this moment, that it was half so much occasioned by the exercise, and fatigue, of the preceding day, as it was, by my having gone to bed, *in perfect good humour with the world.*

FASHIONS *for* APRIL.

Full Dresses.

1. OPERA dress, made of buff silk. The hair ornamented with a gem, and a white lace veil.

2. Short robe and train of fine white muslin, embroidered all round with a deep border; the sleeves very short, and looped up on the top of the arm. The hair dressed, and ornamented with a gold comb.

Evening and Morning Dresses.

1. A round dress of worked muslin, the bottom of the train and sleeves trimmed with deep lace. A very long veil of black lace, fastened up on one side with a gem. White shoes.

2. A walking dress of thick white muslin, tucked round the bottom in very small tucks, the front made to button up to the throat with a collar. A straw bonnet trimmed with blue ribbon.

Nine Heads.

1. A straw hat turned up in front, and ornamented with a rose; the hair very long over the face.

2. A black lace veil pinned over the hair.

3. A hat of pink silk turned up in front, and trimmed with quillings of black lace.

4. A Grecian turban of white muslin, with pearls or diamonds in front, and a silver sprig.

5. The

5. The Elfi Bey turban, ornamented with gold or ſilver ornaments.

6. A turban of ſatin and muſlin.

7. A white ſatin hat turned up in front, and ornamented with white oſtrich feathers.

8. A bonnet of demeſaiſon velvet turned up in front, with a bow or comb in the hair.

9. A turban of white ſatin, ornamented with white oſtrich feathers.

General Observations.

The prevailing colours are lilac, buff, blue, and yellow. Spencers are at preſent preferred for walking. Straw hats, moſtly of the gipſy ſhape, are beginning to be worn. The large ſilk ſhawls continue to be much worn for evening.

The Mooriſh turban, with Etruſcan band and Macaw plume, faſtened in over the left eye with diamonds, is now the *haut ton*, with the Egyptian robe, which faſtens down the ſide with hieroglyphic border, richly embroidered in gold or ſilver; the ſleeve looped to the ſhoulder with links of diamonds, the front, which alſo faſtens to the figure, is confined with diamonds, pearls, gold or ſilver, and made entirely of lace. The pearl coloured Circaſſian dreſs is very beautiful, the hind part ſloped in a peculiar way, and beautifully ornamented, tied round the waiſt with cords and taſſels, the ſleeves ſimply elegant, and to expoſe almoſt all the arm.

The morning dreſſes are alſo made in the Circaſſian ſtyle; long ſleeves, and rather high coloured tunics for morning, with train petticoats; white luſtres have of late been much worn, and are likely to continue ſo for the enſuing ſeaſon, with coloured crape draperies richly ſpangled, or apliqued with ſilver. For morning, peliſſes and capots of pearl and other light coloured ſilk will be much worn; ſpencers will alſo be much worn till the weather changes. Chip and ſtraw hats, with Macaw and other plumes, &c. are much admired. The Ulyſſes mantle is very faſhionable. Morone Spaniſh hats, richly ornamented with ſilver and plumes of oſtrich feathers; thoſe of white with rich ſpangled veils of lace, forming a drapery, with oſtrich and birds of Paradiſe plumes, have alſo a charming effect with diamond bands and ſprigs. The Macedonian head-dreſs is very novel and whimſical; the turbans of Bruſſels lace, the crown alſo, which has the wearer's initials worked in the lace, and lined with lilac, is ſuperb. They are as high in price as one hundred and twenty guineas. For half dreſs, white frocks trimmed with lace, very ſhort, and worn over ſarſnet petticoats, are in great demand.

A LITERARY CHARACTER.

HE is a man poſſeſſed of ſome virtues, though not deſtitute of many of the vices which diſfigure human nature. His heart is liberal, and his motives juſt; but fortune forbids him to diſplay the qualities of the one, and vicious perſons endeavour to vilify the other. Endowed with mental excellence ſuperior to the general claſs of human beings, he ſeeks only the enlargement of virtue in his writings; and to this end alone are his feeble endeavours directed.

His temper has become irafcible from intenſe ſtudy and reiterated misfortunes: eaſily provoked in trifles to anger, the impetuoſity of his mind ſoon ſubſides if left to itſelf, but increaſes when oppoſed. Not gifted with fortitude, his heart ſoon ſinks under diſtreſs; and the apprehenſion of miſery paralyſes the moſt active energies of his heart. Proud perhaps to a fault, he ſcorns meanneſs in himſelf and in others: impreſſed with a nice ſenſe of honour, he is alive to the minuteſt injury or inſult, whether real or intended: he abhors injuſtice, and never fails to caſtigate it when found in others. Warm in his reſentments, he can never bow his feelings to others, even in thoſe caſes where the firſt atonement ought to come from himſelf; but, on the contrary, his heart is ever open to reconciliation, when propoſed in a proper manner. Diſtinction is his idol, and this often leads him into eccentricities, which fools laugh at, and wiſe men pity: fond of colloquial eminence, he dreads an imaginary want of powers to ſhine in that reſpect; and, therefore, often ſits ſilent in company, when topics are agitated on which his reſearches and his genius might enable him to throw light.

Active in his friendſhips, he never ſhrinks from doing good, when the moſt remote means are within his reach: deſultory in ſtudy, his mind loves to expatiate upon numerous objects; whence he cannot be ſaid to poſſeſs ſolid information on any. Liberal in his conduct, pecuniary conſiderations are with him only a meaſure of prudence, as he heartily deteſts intereſtedneſs in engagements of mutual honour and liberality. Never prone to indulge in harſh opinions reſpecting other people, he always makes it a rule to neglect reports, truſting to his own experience as the moſt ſure guide. This is an amiable principle, but it often leads into misfortunes.

As a huſband, he is ſincerely affectionate, but never diſplays any anile fondneſs; never expreſſes the ſame anxiety for trivial evils as for thoſe of greater magnitude.—As a ſon, he feels and practiſes the moſt ſacred of filial duties: he feels a real glow of exquiſite happineſs, when he can diſpel for one moment the anxious ſolicitude of his mother.—As a brother, he experiences every ſentiment of fraternal love, and ſincerely values a ſiſter, who is in many reſpects a prototype of himſelf.

Such

Such a man there is, for this portrait is drawn with fidelity from the man himself!

Obſervations on ſome Phænomena reſpecting the Flight and the Sight of Birds.

[By M. Lacepede, Member of the Conſervative Senate, and of the National Inſtitute of France.]

THE wonderful facility with which birds raiſe themſelves in the air, and the aſtoniſhing extent of their ſight, have often ſtruck the philoſopher with amazement, employed the attention of the naturaliſt, and amuſed the imaginations of the vulgar. The ſciences of anatomy, of mechanics, and of optics, have diſcovered the peculiar conſtruction which furniſhes theſe animals with a rapid motion, and a piercing ſight; but ſtill the real extent of theſe two phænomena is not accurately known. Their cauſes have been demonſtrated, but their important reſults have not been calculated with ſufficient exactneſs. Let us endeavour to bring under one point of view ſeveral facts that depend on one another, and mutually explain each other, and, perhaps, they may conduct us to a juſt appreciation of theſe two ſtriking and remarkable attributes.

Let us take for the particular ſubjects of our inveſtigation, that bird, by excellence the ruler of the air, that intrepid traveller, whoſe progreſs is not interrupted by length of ſpace, by cold, by winds, or by thunder, that is, the eagle: let us alſo take another bird, ſo much favoured by nature, which is leſs armed, but not leſs active than the eagle, which is organiſed ſo as to ſwim on the ſurface of the waters, as well as to ſoar above the clouds, and has fixed its abode above the ſeas included between the tropics, and dividing with his rival the empire of the air, reigns without conſtraint, and under the name of the frigat, on the equinoctial ocean.

Theſe birds poſſeſs to an eminent degree an extent of wings, and a ſtrength of muſcles, with a ſuitable lightneſs of body, and an internal warmth, which is capable of reſiſting the cold of the higher regions of the atmoſphere. The elevation of their flight has been long known, but we are not as yet furniſhed with an exact calculation of its diſtance. I ſhall now endeavour to offer ſome obſervations on it. An object, in clear daylight, does not diſappear from the eye of the obſerver, until it is ſeparated from him by a diſtance equal to three thouſand five hundred times its greateſt diameter.

Thoſe travellers that have frequented the mountains and rocks, which are uſually the retreats of the eagle and the frigat, have often ſeen thoſe birds elevating themſelves ſo high in the air, as

to be no longer viſible to them. The eagle, and the frigat had, therefore, already paſſed through a diſtance equal to three thouſand five hundred times their greateſt dimenſions; and as large eagles, and the largeſt frigat, meaſure at leaſt two toiſes, or four metres, when their wings are expanded, we may ſuppoſe, that they do not ceaſe to be viſible in the atmoſphere, until they have reached an elevation of ſeven thouſand toiſes, or fourteen thouſand metres, above the level of the ſea. It is therefore on a ſcale of fourteen thouſand metres, that we muſt endeavour to place the different elevations, which the different kinds of birds may reach; and the total amount of this ſcale muſt be the meaſure of the elevation to which we ſhould refer the flight of birds conſidered in general.

As, however, we may be inclined to believe that the obſervations made on the diſappearance of eagles or frigats in the atmoſphere, were taken from them when they deſcribed in their flight diagonals inclined relatively to the vertical line; let us only compute a little more than half of the extent which we have aſcribed to them. Let us aſſign no more than eight thouſand metres, or four thouſand toiſes to the grand ſcale, which ſhall be deſtined to meaſure the force of the aſcenſion of birds. Eagles and frigats have been ſeen to paſs with rapidity this ſcale, the dimenſions of which naturally excite the moſt lively admiration; but let us not content ourſelves with vague conſiderations, but rather endeavour to fix ſome preciſe and determinate grounds on which we may proceed.

It has been obſerved, that when a bird elevates itſelf nearly perpendicularly, it only traverſes, in a given time, the half at moſt of the ſpace, which it would have paſſed, had it advanced horizontally, and had only to ſurmount a much inferior reſiſtance oppoſed to it by gravitation.

On the other hand, I have obſerved, that large birds paſs in a horizontal direction a ſpace of twenty-five toiſes, or fifty metres, in a ſecond. It follows, that the eagle and the frigat can raiſe themſelves to the higheſt point of the ſcale of eight thouſand metres in ſix minutes, or thereabouts. When, from this elevation, they dart themſelves like an arrow upon the prey, which they wiſh to ſeize, they deſcend, and fall, in a manner, on their victim, with a velocity ſtill more ſurpriſing. In fact, we may ſay, when we ſee them dart from the heavens, in order to ſatisfy the hunger which preys on them, that they abandon themſelves to their gravity, and arrive at the ſurface of the land or ſea, with the accelerated velocity of weighty bodies. It has been even maintained, that inſtead of diminiſhing this rapidity by their efforts, they increaſe it by ſurmounting the reſiſtance of the air, by the impulſion of their wings. But how can this opinion be maintained? We know that a heavy body deſcends in forty ſeconds, from an elevation of eight thouſand metres. If, therefore, we

ſuppoſe an uniform ſwiftneſs in the fall of the eagle and the frigat, inſtead of an accelerated velocity, theſe birds would paſs a ſpace of two hundred metres, or one hundred toiſes in a ſecond.

But can we imagine that they could reſiſt the effects of ſo precipitate a motion, when we recollect that the ſwifteſt greyhound does not advance thirty metres in a ſecond, that the current of the air which paſſes forty metres in the ſame time, is very violent, and that ſound oftentimes is tranſmitted in an equal interval of time, only to the diſtance of three hundred and fifty metres?

It is, moreover, very difficult to aſcertain with preciſion the real velocity of a bird that quits in that manner the ſuperior regions. This ſubject has not as yet been examined with ſufficient attention; and my own exertions have been inadequate to attain that object with any degree of accuracy. But, as in this remarkable deſcent, the eagle and the frigat augment conſiderably the reſiſtance which the air oppoſes to them by extending their wings with force, and ſupporting themſelves in a manner with a large parachute, and that, beſides, they aſſiſt themſelves in their efforts againſt gravitation, by the obliquity of their flight, and the inclination of the atmoſpheric plane on which they ſeem to reſt themſelves, we ought, as I think, to conſider their ſwiftneſs in deſcending from their elevation, only as double of their horizontal velocity, and of courſe, quadruple of their ſwiftneſs in aſcending. In their deſcent, therefore, they paſs through one hundred metres, or fifty toiſes in a ſecond; and the naturaliſt may ſay, with the poet, when theſe ſurpriſing birds pounce upon their enemies, that their rapidity equals the impetuous wind.

The knowledge of the elevation which is reached by the eagle and the frigat, will now furniſh us with a new and determinate notion. From the higheſt point of the ſcale of eight thouſand metres, the frigat frequently diſtinguiſhes on the ſurface of the ocean a fiſh, the dimenſions of which, in their greateſt extent, are ſcarcely equal to the fourth of a metre. It ſees the fiſh ſo clearly, that from the region in which it holds itſelf ſuſpended, it directs its fall with an exactneſs that enables it to ſeize inſtantly on its prey, and carry it off with it into the air.

It is plain, therefore, that objects do not diſappear from its eyes, till they are at a diſtance of more than thirty-two thouſand times its diameter. And as man, as we have already remarked, can only perceive objects which are ſufficiently near to him, ſo that their diameter muſt equal the three thouſandth five hundredth part of their diſtance; it is evident, that the ſight of the bird is at leaſt nine times more piercing than that of a man. This conſideration may ſerve to elucidate ſeveral phænomena in natural hiſtory, and aid the philoſopher in his inveſtigations.

An

An object of the dimenſions of ten metres, a tree for example, may be diſtinctly viſible to an eagle, at the diſtance of three thouſand metres. And as it is eaſy to prove, that when this bird balances himſelf in the part of the atmoſphere which is the boundary of his elevation, the terreſtial and circular ſurface, which ſpericity of our planet does not withdraw from his view, and to the centre of which he correſponds, has not a leſs radius than three hundred thouſand metres, he muſt, therefore, diſtinguiſh not only the mountains, but alſo the woods and rivers, which are contained in the immenſe circumference of the circle, above which he ſoars, and to which we muſt aſſign, notwithſtanding the aſtoniſhment with which it may fill us, a periphery of eighteen thouſand metres, or nine hundred thouſand toiſes.

What a noble ſpectacle would not this vaſt plain preſent to the eye of man, were he endowed with the piercing ſight of the eagle, and could elevate himſelf in the ſame manner into the regions of the air! would not this magnificent ſpectacle be far ſuperior in extent and variety to the admirable proſpect which the imagination cheriſhes with enthuſiaſm, and which has furniſhed enjoyments ſo captivating, and ſuch lofty and affecting ſentiments, to thoſe who truſted themſelves to a frail aerial boat attached to a balloon, or climbing to the ſummit of the Andes, or the top of Ætna, and following at an humble diſtance the monarch of the feathered tribe, on the firſt confines of his etherial domain, they behold the glittering rays of the ſun, at the dawn of day, illuminating from the diſtant horizon the ſeas, the ſhores, the continents, and the iſlands!

Under theſe impreſſions, it is not difficult to conceive, how birds of paſſage, that experience in their elevation in the air ſuch changes of temperature as announce the different ſeaſons, may be enabled by means of a ſight nine times more powerful than that of a man, to ſelect, and to follow, as Buffon has obſerved, the ſhorteſt and the ſafeſt paſſage to the climates that offer them an aſylum! Birds that are poſſeſſed of the moſt powerful ſight, and the greateſt capability of flying, are better enabled to obtain this end; and by applying the obſervations which we have already made, we ſhall find that two hours are neceſſary to the birds which are the beſt furniſhed by nature for this purpoſe, in order to proceed from the centre of the vaſt field which their ſight embraces, to the ſummit of the circumference of the ſame field.

On the other hand, if we recollect a multitude of facts, which are atteſted by intelligent travellers, and if we remember that they have met with birds diveſted of the faculty of ſwimming, and at the ſame time hovering in the midſt of violent ſtorms, at the diſtance of more than four hundred leagues from any land, we muſt be convinced, when we compare the facts which we have brought forward, that eagles and frigats can fly, at leaſt for

twelve hours, without being compelled to ſeek on the ſurface of the earth for a repoſe of greater or leſs duration.

We are now in poſſeſſion of all the neceſſary data to ſolve one of the moſt intereſting problems preſented by the grand phænomenon of the periodical migration of birds of paſſage, that change their abode with the ſeaſons, from the poles to the line, and from the line to the poles. We may be allowed to ſay, that the eagle, or the frigat, will require only twenty-ſix hours of flight, interrupted at moſt by two intervals of reſt of greater or leſs duration, in order to tranſport themſelves from the wintry confines of the polar circle, over which the frozen ſeaſon rules in the midſt of mountains of ice; from intenſe darkneſs, and the torpor of death, to the fortunate abodes, which the genial influence of the vicinity of the tropics clothes with the charms of an eternal ſpring. If, in order to arrive at exact and well-grounded reſult, and to employ in the ſolution of uſeful phyſical problems the important element of duration, we wiſh to diſcover what time would elapſe, while a frigat, or an eagle might be making the tour of our globe along the equinoctial line, and following in a manner the path of the ſun, we ſhall find that theſe extraordinary birds would complete their journey round the globe in two hundred and twenty hours, the ſeries of which would be interrupted by no more than ſeventeen ſtops for the purpoſes of reſting.

When man reflects on the extraordinary qualities allotted to birds, and which have been refuſed to him, let him not forget the ſublime attributes which nature has laviſhed on himſelf. By gifting him with reaſon ſhe has put every thing in his power. That creative faculty has incloſed a light vapour in a well-conſtructed apparatus, and by thoſe means has lifted man above the clouds. It has done more; it has melted ſand, cut glaſs into a variety of forms, compelled the rays of light to refract, and reflect at his pleaſure, and by means of this faculty, the eye of man has ſuddenly penetrated through vaſt diſtances, and deſcribed, diſtinguiſhed, and compared, millions of orbs, in the immenſity of the univerſe.

Let man, therefore, never ceaſe to cultivate the faculty of intelligence which he has received from Heaven! It is by enlarging his mind by reflection, enlivening it by ſentiment, fertilizing it by perſevering ſtudy, diſpelling the illuſions of prejudice, the ſeductions of error, the phantom of vain glory, and acknowledging that there is no power but what is derived from genius, no force but what proceeds from knowledge, no happineſs but what ſprings from virtue; that he will conſecrate a durable monument to the tutelary divinities of virtue, ſcience, and genius, to pacific liberty, to ſympathetic concord, and to that ſupreme juſtice of feeble humanity, a conſolatory indulgence for the frailties of mankind,

Diſtinguiſhed

Diſtinguiſhed Inſtance of Patriotiſm, exhibited in the Conduct of the celebrated Lavater.

[From Geſner's Life of Lavater.]

IN the year 1762, Lavater, actuated by that general benevolence and patriotic zeal which he ſo diſintereſtedly diſplayed to the laſt moment of his life, engaged in an undertaking which excited great attention, and procured him the love and eſteem of his fellow-citizens. Felix Grebel, bailiff of Gruningen, one of the bailiwicks of Zurich, groſsly abuſed his authority as a magiſtrate, and was notoriouſly guilty of acts of oppreſſion and extortion; yet the ſufferers, being poor, dare not complain to the magiſtrates of Zurich, ſince the burgermaſter of that time (one of the firſt in the ſtate) was the father-in-law of the delinquent. The honeſt indignation of Lavater was ſtrongly excited by the numerous complaints he heard, and the undeniable proofs he obtained of the repeated acts of injuſtice committed by the bailiff; yet the connections of the offender, whom impunity rendered every day bolder, were ſo powerful, that he was convinced it was moſt adviſable to proceed at firſt with ſecrecy and caution. In conjunction with his friend Fuſeli, equally an ardent enemy to injuſtice and oppreſſion, he ſent an anonymous letter to the bailiff, ſigned with the letters J. C. L. in which, after reproaching him in the ſtrongſt terms with the enormities of which he had been guilty, he concludes thus:

"I give you two months—within that time, either reſtore what you have unjuſtly extorted, or expect juſtice. I conjure you to communicate this letter to thoſe who, if you are innocent, can do you right. Call on me, I conjure you, within fourteen days, in the public gazettes; you ſhall find me ready to give you every ſatisfaction; but if you neither vindicate yourſelf from my charge, nor reſtore your extortions, you ſhall, as God lives, expoſed to utmoſt ſhame, be made the ſacrifice of offended juſtice. Rely not on the influence and protection of your worthy father-in-law, whom you have ſo often diſgraced. He has a mind too noble to afford you aid. He will not ſacrifice the honour he has acquired by a life of integrity of ſeventy years, to a character baſe as your's. I repeat, I give you two months. You ſhall be weighed in the balance. See that you are not found wanting."

This letter was dated Auguſt 27, 1762. Lavater and Fuſeli waited the two months they had appointed; but the corrupt bailiff had not the courage to require ſatisfaction, either in the manner propoſed to him, or in any other way; nor did he appear diſpoſed to make reparation for any act of injuſtice or extortion that he had committed. Lavater therefore wrote a paper entitled, "The Unjuſt Bailiff, or the Complaints of a Patriot,"

of

of which he had a ſmall number of copies printed, and ſent one to each of the members of the government, ſealed, and ſuperſcribed with his particular addreſs, with a motto peculiarly adapted to the character of each. Theſe mottoes were ſo extremely appropriate, that they made a greater impreſſion on many of thoſe to whom they were addreſſed than even the contents of the paper itſelf. The general motto to each of the papers was "Brutus, thou ſleepeſt!—Ah! wert thou alive!"

In conſequence of the diſtribution of theſe papers among all the members of the magiſtracy, a meeting of the council of Zurich was held, in which it was determined to publiſh a notice requiring that the author of the accuſation ſhould, within the ſpace of a month, perſonally appear before the council, to ſubſtantiate and prove the charges he had made, aſſuring him that he ſhould meet with juſtice and impartiality; and at the ſame time ſignifying that, if he did not appear, every means would be employed to detect and puniſh him for his anonymous ſtander. The ſame notice required all thoſe who thought themſelves aggrieved to appear and make their complaints to the burgermaſter, promiſing them an impartial hearing and effectual redreſs. This notice was publiſhed on the 4th of December, 1762.

On the ſame day, M. Grebel, the bailiff, who was the object of theſe charges, and who had hitherto maintained ſo cautious a ſilence, appeared before the council to lodge his complaint, and claim its juſtice and protection againſt a libel which had been printed and circulated to defame his character. It was, in fact, in vain for him to be longer ſilent, as the affair had now become public, and it was evident would be inveſtigated by the proper authorities.

The publication of the notice from the council encouraged many perſons who had been oppreſſed by the bailiff to appear, and ſtate their complaints to the burgermaſter, who on the 16th of December informed the council that he had already received charges againſt the party accuſed from twenty different perſons. A committee of ſix members was therefore appointed by the council to examine and report on the matter of the accuſations.

Lavater and Fuſeli appeared before the council on the 24th of the ſame month, and avowed themſelves the authors of the anonymous letter referred to in the notice. They behaved with all that firmneſs which conſcious integrity and a zeal for juſtice inſpire in ardent minds. When aſked why they had choſen to proceed in the manner they did, and not by an immediate complaint to the magiſtrates, Lavater produced a paper, ſtating the reaſons of their conduct in this particular, in language ſo energetic and convincing, that no farther objection was made to the mode they had purſued.

Before Lavater diſcovered himſelf to be the author of this anonymous accuſation, he ſuffered extreme anxiety on account of the alarm which he knew his parents would feel when they ſhould learn that he had adventured to bring charges againſt a magiſtrate intimately connected with perſons of the firſt authority and influence in the government. Under the impreſſion of this uneaſineſs, he firſt made known his ſecret to the miniſter Wirz, who introduced the diſcloſure of it to his parents, by ſaying—"I come to wiſh you joy of a ſon, who by his zeal for juſtice not merely gives the promiſe of being a great man, but already is a great man." The father of Lavater, however, expreſſed great fears of the conſequences of ſo bold an undertaking; but M. Wirz, clapping him on the ſhoulder, replied—"Rejoice, doctor, in ſuch a ſon, who ſpeaks when no other perſon dares to ſpeak. That juſtice for which he diſplays ſo ardent a zeal ſhall cover him with its wings."

It would be tedious and unintereſting to enter into a minute account of the progreſs and inveſtigation of this affair. Suffice it is to ſay, that Grebel, the bailiff againſt whom the charges were preferred, did not think it adviſeable to wait the reſult and conſequences of the enquiries of the committee appointed to examine into his conduct, but confeſſed his guilt, by abſconding from juſtice.

Lieutenant-Colonel Horsford's Deſcription of the Guns, &c. uſed in the Eaſt Indies.

THE iron guns are of European manufacture. The braſs guns, mortars, and howitzers, have been caſt in India, one Portugueſe three-pounder excepted. Some bear an inſcription of being made at Muttra, others at Ugein; but the whole are evidently from the deſign of an European artiſt. The dimenſions are, in general, thoſe of the French; the workmanſhip is of as high a finiſh as any in the company's arſenal.

Thirteen of the four-pounders have iron cylinders (or bores,) over which, it would ſeem, the metal was run in caſting the piece, for the adherence is ſo cloſe, that no ſlit or chaſm appears; and nothing but the different colours of the two metals diſcover the junction. The iron cylinder (or bore) is compoſed of four longitudinal pieces of hammered iron, remarkably cloſe, and neatly fitted throughout the bore.

The whole of the pieces are furniſhed with well-made elevated ſcrews; ſome are of the lateſt French improvement; and to the mortars and howitzers the ſame kind of elevating ſcrews are, by a ſimple and ingenious adjuſtment, made to elevate the piece to any angle, and give either of them the double capacity of mortar and howitzer.

The

The carriages are ſtrong and good: ſome are nearly made to the French pattern.

The tumbrils are very ſtout, but of the clumſy ſize and ſhape made by the company in their arſenal, about twenty years ago. Some, however, have the modern draft chain, whilſt others have retained the trace made of green hide.

The ammunition, both round and grape, differs from that made in the company's arſenal, inſomuch as that the bags are of cotton inſtead of ſerge, and not fixed to bottoms with the ſhot; and alſo, that two ſorts of grape are made uſe of after the French ordnance, viz. large balls for great diſtances, and ſmaller balls for leſſer diſtances.

Chain-ſhot, rolled up into the ſhape of a ball, of the ſize of the bore of the piece, either mortar or howitzer, made part alſo of the enemy's ammunition.

DUELLING BURLESQUED.

A Short time ago a foreign gentleman, a friend of the Prince De Conde's, attended at the Public Office, Bow-ſtreet, to give information that a young gentleman of the name of Etienne du Cas, a relation of the prince's, had received a letter from a gentleman, whom he did not know, calling him "a coward," and challenging him to fight with piſtols on Saturday afternoon. The writer acknowledged he was unknown to the party whom he was addreſſing, by name, but ſtated that he would be in the ride in St. James's Park, at five o'clock, on Saturday afternoon, mounted on a bright bay horſe, with a white handkerchief in his hand, and on their meeting would adjourn to a proper place to fight. The letter concluded with ſtating the writer's addreſs to be "Edward Stephenſon, Eſq. No. 50, Great Ormond-ſtreet."

In conſequence of this information, warrants were iſſued againſt the challenger and foreign young gentleman. In the evening, Etienne du Cas, attended by his relation, and a friend, appeared before Aaron Graham, Eſq. in the cuſtody of Baker; but the other party had not arrived, Mr. Graham then propoſed that Mr. Du Cas ſhould enter into a recognizance not to break the peace by being provoked to fight by Mr. Stephenſon, which was agreed to, and was about to be taken by the clerk, when lo! a lilliputian hero entered the office, in the cuſtody of Rivett, to the no ſmall amuſement of every one preſent, even the magiſtrate could not reſiſt laughing, for the challenger proved to be a mere child, only fourteen years of age, but dreſſed in the extreme of faſhion, with a very thick neckcloth, and his ſhirt collar up to his ears, and only about three feet two inches high.

After

After the magiſtrate had recovered from his aſtoniſhment, he examined Maſter Stephenſon as to the challenge ſent to Mr. Du Cas, which he denied to be written by him, but acknowledged it was ſent by two elder boys who were at Chigwell-ſchool with him, and they ſigned his name by his conſent. The offence given by Mr. Du Cas was, that he had been on a viſit in the neighbourhood of Chigwell-ſchool, and had paid ſome attention to a Miſs H. with whom Maſter Stephenſon was *enamoured*.

The magiſtrate reprimanded Maſter Stephenſon, and told him, if he did not make a very ſufficient apology to Mr. Du Cas he would commit him to priſon; he moreover ſaid he ſhould ſend for Maſters George Leath and Joſeph Harris, who had aſſiſted in manufacturing the letter, and ſhould hold them to bail to keep the peace.

DESCRIPTION *of the* NORTH CAPE.

PROCEEDING from Haveſund (ſays the voyager) we left on our right the ſtrait formed by Mageron, or Bare Iſland, and the continent. The vaſt expanſe of the Frozen Ocean opened to our left, and we arrived at laſt at the extremeſt point of Europe, called the North Point, exactly at midnight.

" Here then we ſtood, and touch'd the earth's laſt point."

The North Cape is an enormous rock, which projecting far into the ocean, and being expoſed to all the fury of the waves, and the outrage of tempeſts, crumbles every year more and more into ruins. Here every thing is ſolitary, every thing is ſterile, every thing ſad and deſpondent.

The ſhadowy foreſt no longer adorns the brow of the mountain; the ſinging of the birds, which enlivened even the woods of Lapland, is no longer heard in this ſcene of deſolation; the ruggedneſs of the dark gray rock is not covered by a ſingle ſhrub; the only muſic is the hoarſe murmuring of the waves, ever and anon renewing their aſſaults on the huge maſſes that oppoſe them. The northern ſun, creeping at midnight, at the diſtance of five diameters along the horizon, and the immeaſureable ocean in apparent contact with the ſkies, form the grand outline in the ſublime picture preſented to the aſtoniſhed and reflecting ſpectator.

A QUESTION, *by a Self-taught Algebraiſt.*

HAVING given the ſum of the greater number added to their rectangle =12, and the cube of the greater drawn into the ſquare of the leſs, a maximum; required to find the numbers by a fluxionary proceſs?

Anſwer, by H. Holwell, of Exeter, to P. Gove's Enigma, inſerted February 13.

WHEN man with toils is much oppreſs'd,
A BED will ſurely give him reſt;
There ſweet, refreſhing ſleep he'll find,
To eaſe his heart, and cheer his mind.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from Recluſe, of Wivelifcombe; G. Holland, of Stoke Abbot; a volunteer of Bridgewater; Juventus, of Newton Buſhel; W. Snow, of Dawliſh; J. Channon, of Ottery; G. Hann, jun. of Stoke Abbot; and T. Coumbe, of St. German's.

Anſwer, by T. Whicher, of Exeter, to J. Squance's Charade, inſerted Feb. 13.

KIND providence the PINK-ROOT has aſſign'd,
For various healing uſes to mankind.

† We have received the like anſwer from A. Kyne, jun. of Dartmouth; T. Rutger, of Clowance; W. Bickham, jun. of Aſhburton; and E. Moon, and P. Gove, of Exeter.

Anſwer, by J. Rouſell, of Lopen, to P. Gove's Enigma, inſerted February 13.

IF a LAND-WAITER is your puſſ,
Pray let no goods go free;
For government muſt have the tax
To keep aloof the enemy.

†§† We have received the like anſwer from E. Moon, and P. Gove, of Exeter; J. Channon, of Ottery; J. E. and W. Bickham, jun. of Aſhburton; J. Lewis, of Poole; T. Rutger, of Clowance; E. R. Bickham, and Juventus, of Newton Buſhel; and W. H. Pippett, of Colyton.

A REBUS, *by W. Tucker, of Mr. Tucker's School, Tilſhead, Wilts.*

INGENIOUS youths, you firſt muſt tell,
That monſter who once guarded Hell;
A fam'd philoſopher produce,
That lived once in Syracuſe:
The wife of Hercules explain,
Who was by him in frenzy ſlain;
A ſon of Œdipus pray find;
Laſtly a paſſion of the mind:
Th' initials join, they will expound,
What in Arabia's wilds is found.

A REBUS, *by T. Rutger, of Clowance.*

MY firſt, when death new terror ſtrikes,
Is heard both far and near;
My next its revolution makes
I think juſt once a year;
Uſeful indeed my next is found,
While it continues tight;
And on its axis turning round
Compleats each day and night.
Remembrance ſweet! yet fondly paints my whole,
As I my pleaſures there review;
O Thames! what do thy fertile banks unfold
But beauties various, and for ever new.

POETRY.

On his MAJESTY's HAPPY RECOVERY.

AN IRREGULAR ODE.

WHEN joys extatic touch the ſoul,
Quiv'ring thro' the frame it plays,
Glows and burns, contemns controul,
Then burſting wildly, as the ſmother'd blaze,
Mounts to the ſkies,
And catching inſpiration there,
Bids the cold ſons of earth ariſe,
And emulate the glories of an higher ſphere.

Beneficence ſupreme!
To thee the ſeraph's golden harps are ſtrung,
And ſainted imperfections ſtrive to join the theme
With wiſhful flutt'ring tongue;
Oft by the ſwelling eye, and riſing breaſt,
And ſtarting tear,
In ſilence is the agonizing bliſs confeſt;
The pauſe ſuperior beings fill
With varied themes, with varied ſkill,
And calmer ſounds ſucceed, and ſoothe the raviſh'd air.

O! that ſome ſpark would iſſue from thy throne,
And hallow mine the lips of praiſe;
Worthy to make thy mercies known
To generations of far diſtant days.
When of old thou didſt inſpire
The prophet of the ſacred lyre,
Such was the wiſh that fill'd his ardent mind,
And time preſerves the ſong that gratitude deſign'd.

Bending beneath thy hand,
How was the nation's ſtrength bow'd down?
How did affliction darken all the land?
How did it mourn the head of its renown?
And in one general ſorrow, loyal fears
Implore thy aid in trembling, ſighs, and tears.

And thou didſt hear our prayer:
God of our Fathers! ſtill our king's thy care,
In plenitude of power,
Thy favour rules the hour.
Again he lives, again ſuſtains,
With ſtrength renew'd, the late remitted reins;
Again performs the arduous taſk of ſtate,
And the glad nation hails its happier fate.

So, interrupted, when the ſource of light,
Ere half his courſe is veil'd with awful night,
Untutor'd man in horror ſtands,
Lifting to Heaven his ſuppliant hands;
But when the cheering radiance he deſcries
Reſtor'd to earth, and ruling o'er the ſkies,
Proſtrate he falls, and hails the orb of day,
Adoring him who ſtill prolongs its ſway.

Britain,

Britain, greatly favour'd iſle,
In ſtrength, in arts, in virtue bleſt,
Where liberty does ev'ry toil beguile,
And pure religion wears her ſpotleſs veſt;
Well do the peals of joy reſound,
Well do thy ſongs of joy become thee,
Light thy ſportive fires around,
And caſt the memory of thy ſadneſs from thee.

Let thy ſons enter at the gates of praiſe,
Before the mercy-ſeat in homage bend,
To Heaven in hallow'd ſongs their voices raiſe,
And let the loud-tongu'd organ ſtronger deſcants lend.
Fill the harmonious round
Of grand ſoul-elevating ſound;
Break at the rapture's height a ſudden pauſe,
Then pour in one great ſtrain a thunder of applauſe.

Author of life, of health, of peace,
Hear a nation's grateful voice,
Thou haſt made our grief to ceaſe,
Our king's reſtor'd, our hearts rejoice.
Honour, glory, theſe are thine,
Songs of gladneſs, hymns of praiſe;
Fix'd for eternal view thy mercies ſhine,
The firſt, laſt, beſt of all thy wond'rous ways.

P. R.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

RAGGED BESS.

ON *me*, when fickle fortune ſmil'd,
Before my parents' death;
The neighbours call'd me "darling child,"
Or "ſweet Elizabeth:"
But ſince I boaſt theſe friends no more,
They laugh to ſee my tatter'd dreſs,
And as they ſpurn me from their door,
Unkindly call me "ragged Beſs."
In vain, with tears, I beg relief,
And ſeek repoſe in vain;
They ſeem to triumph in my grief,
And give me fiercer pain.
But oft the paſſing ſtrangers wait
To hear the tale of my diſtreſs;
And, ſighing at an orphan's fate,
Relieve the wants of ragged Beſs.
Beneath affliction's rod I bend,
And need compaſſion's aid;
Ah! gentle ſtrangers, ſtill befriend
A poor, forſaken maid.
And O! may Heav'n the gift repay,
And all your brighteſt proſpects bleſs;
When buſy time has ſwept away
The waſted form of ragged Beſs.

Plymouth-Dock. PALEMON.

The POWER *of* RICHES.

THE wealthy fool can have no fault,
For what is ſenſe and worth but *money*?
His dulleſt jeſt is Attic ſalt,
His fouleſt jibe Hyblean honey.